

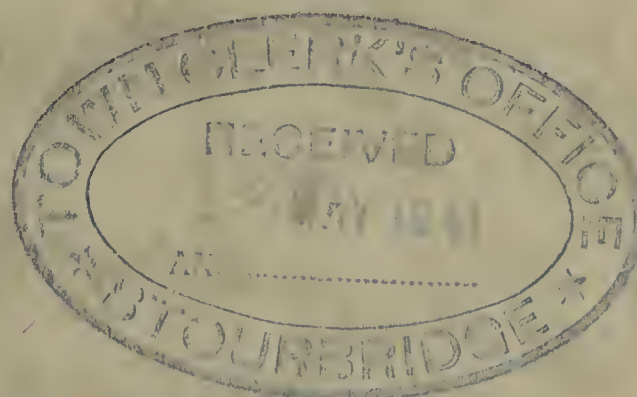
BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1939.



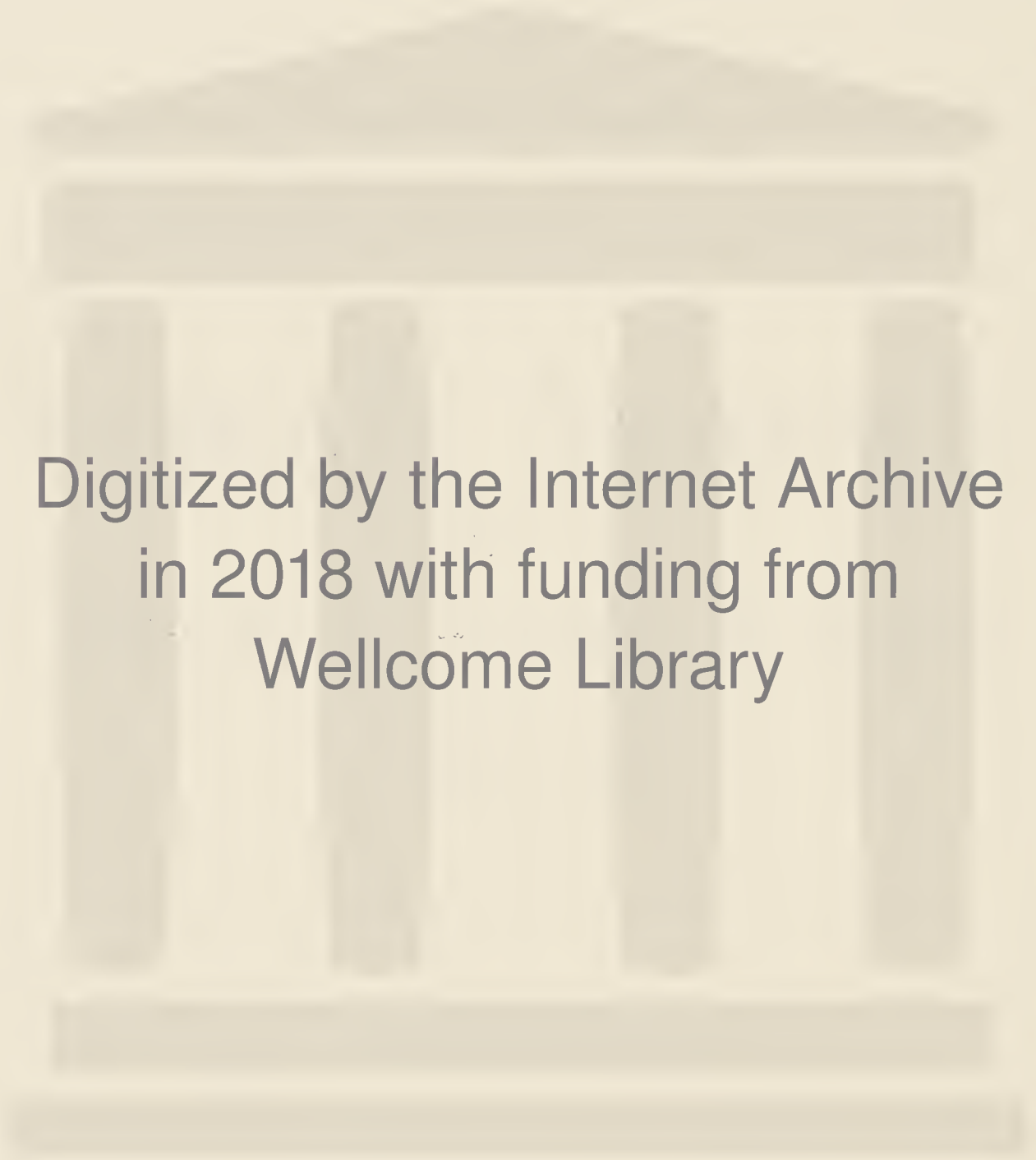
BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE

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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

COUNCILLOR C. BROUGHTON, J.P.

Deputy Mayor :

COUNCILLOR J. A. MOBBERLEY, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

COUNCILLOR RUFUS DUNN, J.P., *Chairman.*

Alderman	Mrs. Francis	Councillor	F. G. Gregory
„	W. T. Harmon, C.C.	„	E. A. Heynes
„	Joseph Wright, C.C.	„	Mrs. Lunt, J.P.
Councillor	A. A. Bateman	„	W. Perrins
„	J. I. Green	„	B. Skelding

Medical Officer of Health :

GEOFFREY DUDLEY, M.B., Ch.B. (*to October 31st, 1939*).

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(*from 1st November, 1939.*)

Sanitary Inspector also Inspector under Petroleum and Shops Acts :

*A. E. K. KENT, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

*E. A. BURN, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*R. F. ROBINS, A.R.San.I.

Clerical Staff :

N. F. COOKSON.

MISS E. M. WASSELL (*to 31st August, 1939*).

G. W. NOKE (*from 2nd January, 1939*)

Miss K. YOUNG (*from 27th November, 1939*).

*Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Vital Statistics for the Year 1939.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Minister of Health has suggested that Medical Officers, in presenting their Annual Reports for the year 1939 should confine such reports to a brief summary of events and should postpone the presentation of the usual statistics until after the present emergency. In accordance with these instructions I beg to present an interim report.

Towards the end of the year a change in the administration of the Public Health Department took place. My predecessor, Dr. Dudley, found that he could not undertake the ever-increasing burdens of his office together with his own busy general practice. According to the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, it became necessary to appoint a registered Medical Practitioner holding a Diploma in Public Health and not engaging in general practice. It was considered that a whole-time Medical Officer of Health was not justified and consequently my present joint appointment materialised—Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Stourbridge and Medical Superintendent of the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green where the Medical Superintendent, also a general practitioner, had recently resigned. It should also be noted that a Joint Board had recently been constituted and in consequence the population served by the Hospital increased from 63,490 to 112,534.

During the change-over under war-time conditions and during the first week in November, I would like to thank Dr. Dudley for the time he gave and the patience he showed me throughout the process of "taking over."

While my joint appointment is paid for in equal amounts by the two Authorities, it must, to a certain extent, be considered experimental, and although it was created in peace time and with a considerable amount of thought to combine administrative and clinical work, it unfortunately cannot be tried out in peace time.

Under war conditions it is quite clear that there is ample scope for the services of a whole-time Medical Officer of Health in the Borough and at least 75 per cent. of his time would be occupied in Civil Defence. Consequently, the writer holds that he is contributing to the successful issue of the war by holding the joint appointment under present conditions. There is, however, one important point that might be noted. My hospital appointment involves, on an average, two or three night calls per week and consequently, it would not be physically possible for me to undertake regular A.R.P. night duty. It should also be pointed out that my hospital is a few miles away and consequently I am frequently out of the

Borough—a fact which, of course, affects both appointments and which might, under certain circumstances prove to be a “snag” of the Joint Appointment.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions.

The Area was enlarged on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Urban District of Lye and Wollescote, and of the Parish of Pedmore, which was part of the Rural District of Bromsgrove.

	<i>Acres.</i>
The Area is now	4,214
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge	1,920
Lye and Wollescote	1,028
Pedmore	1,266
The Population, according to the 1931 Census, was ...	33,140
<i>viz</i> : Stourbridge	19,904
Lye and Wollescote	12,237
Pedmore	999
Total Population, estimated at middle of 1939 ...	35,310
Number of inhabited houses, 1931 ...	8,164
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1939 ...	10,044
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931	8,477
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1939	not available
Rateable Value	£176,698
Sum represented by a penny rate	£660 0 0

Statistical Memorandum.

Population Estimated, Mid-year, 1939	35310
Population (average) for calculation of Death Rates, 1939	34.990
Birth Rate per 1,000	13.99
Birth Rate Average for five years, 1935-1939	13.65
Death Rate, Crude	11.83
Death Rate, Adjusted	12.30
Death Rate—Adjusted—Average for five years 1935-1939	11.74
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	64.77
Infantile Death Rate Average for five years, 1935-1939	48.55
Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0.54
Death Rate from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0.057

Physical Features, General Character and Social Conditions of the District.

The Town rises from the River Stour, which is the boundary of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and is on the North side of the Borough. The height above sea level at the River Boundary is 216 feet, rising to 442 feet at the South Boundary adjoining Bromsgrove Rural District, and to 512 feet on the East side.

The Town is partly residential and partly industrial, the industrial portions being principally on the North and North East sides. The South side is wholly residential.

The principal industries are Iron Works, Spades and Shovels ; Chains, Vices, Anvils, Frost Cogs, Fire Bricks, Gas Retorts, Galvanized, Enamelled and Japanned Buckets, Baths and General Hollow-ware ; Horse Shoes ; Skin Rugs, Chamois Leather Gloves ; Brushes and Brooms ; Earthenware Sinks ; Glazed Bricks ; Glass Works Pots.

The Borough owns the Gasworks, which are situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, also, in conjunction with the Urban District of Amblecote, are owners of the Water undertaking.

No particular diseases are attributable to the occupations carried on in the District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	237	244	481
Illegitimate	8	5	13
	<hr/> 245	<hr/> 249	<hr/> 494
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			13.99
Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.0

Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	11	2	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 13
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births			25.64

DEATHS.

Males	206
Females	208
Total	<hr/> 414
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	11.83

For the purpose of comparison of the Death Rate with the Rates of other Districts, and with that of England and Wales as a whole, regard must be had to the constitution of the population in the matter of proportion of the sexes and age group components. The Registrar-General

has, accordingly, issued a Comparability Factor (in the case of Stourbridge, 1.04) by which the Crude Death Rate must be multiplied to obtain an Adjusted Death Rate to allow of such comparison.

Adjusted Death Rate	12.30
Death Rate for England and Wales	12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There was no death in consequence of child-birth.

The Maternal Mortality Rates—per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births—for England and Wales were :—

Puerperal Sepsis	0.74
Other Puerperal Causes	2.08

The Maternity Services in the Borough are satisfactory. In addition to the Mary Stevens Maternity Home there are four qualified mid-wives, appointed by the County Council, whose services are available in the Borough. There are two Ante-Natal Clinics.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	14	18	32
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	14	18	32

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	64.77
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	66.52
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	—

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 50 per 1,000 Live Births.

Causes of Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>	<i>Under 1 month.</i>
Prematurity	7	6
Pneumonia	7	—
Meningitis	1	—
Convulsion	1	1
Gastro Enteritis	1	1
Asthenia	1	1
Septicaemia	1	—
Icterus Neonatorum	1	1
Congenital Partial Atelectasis	2	2

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>	<i>Under 1 month.</i>
Intracranial Haemorrhage	I	I
Cerebral Abscess	I	I
Spina Bifida	I	I
Asphyxia Neonatorum	I	I
Congenital Abnormalities	I	I
Paralysis of Respiration Centre of Brain	I	I
Asphyxia Pallida	I	I
Bilateral Haemorrhage	I	—
Empyema Thoracis	I	—
Pyloric Stenosis	I	—
	32	19
Stourbridge		20
Lye and Wollescote		12
Pedmore		—
		32

The Deaths were distributed as follows :—

	Internal Deaths.	External Deaths.	Total Deaths.
Stourbridge	169	81	250
Lye and Wollescote	87	66	153
Pedmore	10	1	11
	266	148	414

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
1 Typhoid Fever, etc....	—	—
2 Measles	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	3	4
6 Influenza	2	2
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—
9 Respiratory Tuberculosis	10	9
10 Other Tuberculosis	—	2
11 Syphilis	—	1
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH—(Continued).					M.	F.
13	Cancer	...	...	...	35	29
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	4	3
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	11	14
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	50	58
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	8	10
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	11	7
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	3	3
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of Liver	...	...	...	1	4
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	3	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	3	5
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	...	9	12
32	Senility	...	...	...	12	11
33	Suicide	...	...	...	9	3
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	10	8
35	Other Defined Causes	...	...	...	14	16
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	—
SPECIAL CAUSES (included in No. 35 above)					—	—
	Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Total					206	208

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	64
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. (i) **Public Health Officers.**

Particulars of the Public Health Officers, together with information as to their qualifications, are set out on Page 3.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Examination of clinical material (Sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk and foodstuffs is done by the Worcestershire County Analyst.

(ii) (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

For Infectious Cases, motor ambulances are provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Board.

For Non-Infectious Cases. Two motor ambulances under the control of two local Committees, which are affiliated to the Home Service Ambulance Committee, and kept respectively at the Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street (Stourbridge), and in the yard at rear of Fire Station, Lye.

(ii) (c) **Nursing in the Home.**

(a) **GENERAL.** The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organisation, employs two Nurses, whose services are available for residents in the Stourbridge and Pedmore Areas. The Lye and Wollescote Nursing Association, also a voluntary organization, employs a nurse.

(b) There is no provision for Professional Nursing of cases of Infectious Diseases treated at home, excepting Ophthalmia Neonatorum, cases of which are attended by the Infant Welfare Centre Nurse.

(ii) (d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at No. 40, New Road, is under the control of a Voluntary Committee and a contribution is made by the Town Council to the funds of this Committee. The Town Council own the premises occupied by the Centre.

The Centre is open on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week from 2 till 4-30 p.m., and every morning from 9 till 10 o'clock.

Ladies of the Committee assist at the Welfare Centre in helping to weigh the babies and giving tea to the mothers.

Milk and other foods have been given in necessitous cases or supplied at a low cost. The County Milk Scheme for mothers and infants has been adopted by this Welfare Committee.

An Assistant Medical Officer of the County attends at the Centre on Tuesday afternoons, and on the first and third Wednesday afternoons in each month.

An Orthopaedic Clinic, under the auspices of the Worcestershire County Council, is held daily at the Centre, for massage and remedial exercises.

An Ante-natal clinic is held at the Centre on the first and third Tuesday mornings in the month, and is attended by Dr. Irene Hastilow. An Ante-natal clinic is also held at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home on the second and fourth Tuesdays, and is attended by Dr. Irene Hastilow. The Clinics are proving a great help to local medical practitioners.

A monthly Dental Clinic, especially for toddlers and young children, has recently been arranged to be held at the Centre on Saturday mornings.

A Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge. The Centre is under the control of the Corbett Hospital. Grants are made by the Worcestershire and Staffordshire County Councils. The Medical Officer attends on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.—the former for women and children and the latter for men. Intermediate Treatment for women is by arrangement ; for men, each evening except Sunday and Monday.

Clinics for Immunisation of Children against Diphtheria are held by arrangement at Stourbridge and at Lye. The Clinics are provided free by the Borough Council.

A Clinic for Investigation of Mental Diseases is held at the Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, each Friday, at 1-45 p.m. This is under the control of the County Council and the Medical Superintendent of the Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove, is in charge of it.

The School Clinic is held every Tuesday morning, Saturday morning, and Thursday afternoon in the special building attached to Enville Street School. It is under the control of the County Council and one of the Assistant County Medical Officers is in charge.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held every Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Dispensary, Greenfield Avenue, Stourbridge. It is provided by the Worcestershire County Council.

The Health Visitor (Miss E. E. Noke, S.R.N., S.C.M., Certs. Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors and School Nurses and for Maternity and Child Welfare Workers, also Diploma for Health Visitors) reports as follows :—

Notifications of Births received from County Medical Officer :—

Males, 134 ; Females, 159 ; Still Births, 6 ; Total Number of Live Births, 293.

Total Number of Children attending the Centre	.....	653
Total Attendances during the Year	.....	5895
Under one year	.....	3446
Over one Year	.....	2449
Total Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinic	.....	360
New Patients	.....	96
Total number of patients	.....	110
Total visits paid to homes	.....	4619
First visits	.....	280
Re-visits under one year	.....	1260
Re-visits over one year	.....	3079
Ante-Natal First Visits	.....	52
Re-visits	.....	39

A special Toddlers Clinic is held on the first and third Wednesdays in each month. This is intended for the supervision of the health of children between the ages of one and five years.

Infant Life Protection Act, 1908.

Children and Young Persons Act, 1930.

Two children have been under supervision during the year.

The homes are satisfactory.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases have been treated, and both made good recoveries.

County Milk Scheme.

64 applications have been made under the Scheme and 252 pints of Milk, 929 lbs. of dried Milk and 315 bottles of Emulsion and Malt were supplied.

(ii) (e) **Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.**

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>No. of beds.</i>
North Worcs. Isolation.	Hayley Green, near Halesowen.	Infectious Diseases	60
„	„	Tuberculosis	17
„	„	Smallpox	... 8
Corbett	Amblecote, near Stourbridge.	General	... 100
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home.	Stourbridge	Maternity	... 16

Cases of Infectious Disease are admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green. Cases are admitted also from the Boroughs of Halesowen, Kidderminster and Bewdley, the Urban District of Stourport and the Kidderminster Rural District.

This Hospital has three wards for Infectious Diseases, containing 59 beds, 29 for males and 30 for females, and one ward with one bed for Enteric Fever. The Tuberculosis block has two wards, with 14 beds, and three shelters for males. At the Smallpox Hospital there are two wards, each containing 4 beds.

Sandfield House (Wordsley) is now a Public Assistance Institution under the Staffordshire County Council.

The Corbett Hospital, which is a General Hospital, is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote, but is used by inhabitants of this Borough. It is a voluntary hospital, and has 36 beds for males, 32 for females, and 26 for children. There is also one isolation bed, and six private beds. The cases admitted are approximately 70 per cent surgical and 30 per cent medical.

A Clinic for the treatment of Hay Fever is held at the Corbett Hospital each Friday, at 2-0 p.m., from May to September. Treatment is given by Doctor Gifford, one of the Honorary Surgeons, and is by ionization. Although the number of patients treated has not been large, considerable benefit appears to have resulted.

One male and one female bed are allotted to the Venereal Disease Treatment Centre, for use when necessary.

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum requiring In-patient treatment are sent either to Kidderminster or to Dudley General Hospitals, while arrangements are made by the Health Visitor for treatment of other cases at home.

Cases requiring medical attention are sent by the Public Assistance Officer to the Sutton Road Institution, Kidderminster, a Home with 120 beds for males and 91 for females, and 14 cots. In addition there is a Maternity Ward with 6 beds and 4 cots, while 191 beds are provided for vagrants.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are treated at the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, by arrangement with the County Council.

Cases of combined Pregnancy and Venereal Disease requiring In-patient treatment are admitted to Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.

Tuberculosis cases requiring Sanatorium treatment are sent by the County Council to Knightwick, Hill Top, Bromsgrove or Hayley Green. Orthopaedic cases in children—Tuberculosis or otherwise—are sent by arrangement to the "Woodlands," Northfield, Birmingham.

A special clinic for Ear, Nose and Throat cases was established at the Corbett Hospital, under Mr. Bernard G. Goodwin, F.R.C.S. Similiar cases are also treated at the Queen's, General, and Ear, Nose and Throat Hospitals, Birmingham.

In addition, considerable use is made by inhabitants of the Birmingham Hospitals for all purposes.

Special departments for the treatment of Ophthalmic Diseases are held at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Thursdays, at 9 a.m., and at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, on Thursdays, at 2 p.m.; for the treatment of Orthopaedic conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge, on Mondays, at 10-0 a.m. and for Ear, Nose and Throat conditions at the Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

An Orthoptic Clinic for the treatment of squints is held at the Corbett Hospital on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Great benefit is resulting from this new method of treatment.

Medical out-patients attend at the Corbett Hospital at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Surgical patients on Thursdays at 11 a.m.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There has been no alteration in the water supply.

The supply is satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity.

There is no filtration, the water being pumped direct into mains. There is, however, a Reservoir at Doctor's Hill, Stourbridge, serving to augment the pressure, the surplus water during the night going into the Reservoir.

Following are the results of the chemical examinations of two representative samples of the Town's Water Supply, taken in March and November respectively :

November respectively :

	No. 1	No. 2
<i>Physical Characters :</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>	<i>Clear, odourless</i>
	<i>Deposit, none</i>	<i>Deposit, none.</i>
<i>Chemical Examination. (Results in parts per 100,000).</i>		
Solids in Suspension (dried at 100°C.)	... None ...	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 100°C.) ...	... 52 ...	52
Solids in Solution. After Ignition ...	... 46 ...	46
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	... 9.4 ...	9.6
Hardness, Permanent ...	... 14 ...	16
„ Temporary ...	... 16 ...	18
„ Total ...	... 30 ...	34
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	... 0.002 ...	0.003
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	... 0.001 ...	0.0008
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	... 1.1 ...	1.1
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	... None ...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	... 0.013 ...	0.013
Toxic metals ...	... None detected.	None detected.

The bacteriological analyses of the samples submitted by this Department were as follows :—

(All samples of this supply are examined chemically and bacteriologically).

Date.	No. of Colonies developing upon		Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count
	Agar in 2 days. at 37°C.	in 3 days at 22°C.	
January 9th	12	70	5
February 1st	2	6	1
March 2nd	—	4	—
March 2nd	—	10	—
April 5th	—	4	—
May 3rd	—	10	—
June 8th	—	20	—

Date.	No. of Colonies developing upon		Coli-Aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count
	in 2 days. at 37°C.	Agar. in 3 days. at 22°C.	
July 5th	10	70	—
August 2nd	2	10	—
September 7th	18	120	7
September 21st	2	2	—
October 4th	2	2	—
November 2nd	4	4	—
December 7th	4	4	—

Cl. Welchii were absent from all the samples, and Streptococci were not detected.

No substantial explanation of the unsatisfactory report on the sample taken on 7th September can be advanced. This sample was collected from a tap at the dead end of a 2-in. branch main and the water may have become stagnant. The second sample taken in September was, however, from the same tap and gave a result "Highly Satisfactory."

The supply is obtained from three boreholes: (1) Coalbournbrook, 501 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds; (2) Mill Meadow 350 feet deep, sandstone; (3) Tack, (Wordsley), 210 feet deep, mottled sandstone and pebble beds. The latter two are standbys. Nos. 1 and 2 are in the Urban District of Amblecote and No. 3 in the Urban District of Brierley Hill.

Samples of the supply are taken monthly in the districts of two other Authorities served by the Water Board on dates agreed with the Engineer and Manager. This enables a sample from each source of supply to be taken each month and the reports on their examinations are subsequently exchanged.

The Corporation Baths and several works pump water from their own wells. A considerable number of houses supplement the water supply by having rain-water cisterns on their premises, many being underground.

Mr. W. B. Cleverly, the Engineer and Manager of the Stourbridge and District Water Board, informs me that "the only extension of mains of any importance made during the year April 1939-1940, is the completion of an 8-in. main from Pedmore Lane to Hodge Hill Estate. Connections have been made during the year to the South Staffordshire Water Works Company's mains at four points, in addition to the existing two connections. A connection has been made to Seisdon R.D.C. main. There are also existing connections to Kidderminster R.D.C. mains. In each case the valves may be opened by either Authority in cases of emergency only."

On receipt of Memo. 221 the contents were fully discussed with the Engineer and Manager. Such provisions of the Memorandum as could apply to the Town's supply were already being carried out.

PEDMORE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY.

Objections from the Steward to the Feoffees of Oldswinford Hospital, the owners of the land on which the springs and collecting chamber are situated, and of the farms and the majority of the houses served by the Supply, were lodged with the Minister at the beginning of the year against Notices served by the Council under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Certain work, however, was carried out. The channel of agricultural pipes conveying the water from two springs to a collecting chamber some 400 feet away was disconnected, and a pipe line of glazed stoneware pipes with cement joints put in. The supply from one spring was entirely disconnected. At the same time, inspection chambers along the course were raised to a height of some 4 feet above the ground level in an endeavour to prevent surface pollution. This work was carried out in March.

On page 17 is a summary of the bacteriological examinations of samples taken from this supply during the year.

Although some improvement in the water supply was noticed it became apparent from an examination of these reports that the improvement was due to a large extent to weather conditions.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Stourbridge area was sewered in 1887 and the Lye and Wollescote area about 1900. The Main sewers in the Stourbridge area are under the control of the Stourbridge Main Drainage Board, consisting of representatives of the Stourbridge and Amblecote Councils. The Sewers in Lye and Wollescote area are under the control of the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board. The sewage is conveyed to the Whittington sewage farms belonging to these Boards, and is treated on the Broad Irrigation principle.

With the exception of a few houses situate on the outskirts, all the dwelling houses are provided with W.C.'s and efficient drainage, the drains being intercepted from the sewers with intercepting traps. A number of houses have cesspools, most of these being recently erected.

Rivers and Streams.

In the 1938 Report reference was made to a local inquiry held by the Minister of Health into an application by the County Council for consent to take proceedings against certain firms engaged in galvanizing in the Borough discharging the spent acid into the River Stour.

Dr. Wyndham Parker, M.C., County Medical Officer of Health, informs me that the Minister decided to defer his decision for a period of six months to enable the firms concerned to conduct negotiations with the Local Authorities with a view to the discharge of their waste into the public sewers. The Minister asked the County Council to furnish a report by the 30th of September, 1939 as to the progress made with the negotiations and indicated that if this Report disclosed that little or no progress had been made in the matter, the Minister will be disposed to consent to the taking of proceedings in the case of at least four of the firms.

On the 13th of October, 1939, however, the Minister said that the report mentioned above might be deferred until further notice.

Date.	Premises.	No. of Colonies developing upon Agar In 2 days In 3 days at 37°C. at 22°C. (per 1 m.l.)		Coli-Aerogenes (presumptive Coli) Count per 100 m.l.	Classification.
27th March	Cottages next Post Office, Pedmore	16	120	25	Unsatisfactory
12th April	Holly Cottage, Pedmore Lane ...	10	120	10	Suspicious
3rd May	Cottage next Post Office, Pedmore	14	40	20	Unsatisfactory
8th June	Post Office, Pedmore ...	4	40	25	ditto
18th July	Post Office, Pedmore ...	1100	1700	180	ditto
29th July	Post Office, Pedmore ...	6	80	50	ditto
15th August	Meadow View Cottage ...	10	40	20	ditto
19th October	Post Office, Pedmore ...	1300	4800	180	ditto
25th October	Bank Farm, Pedmore	370	660	35	ditto
26th October	Pedmore Farm House, Pedmore ...	140	1100	160	ditto
ditto	Freeman's Cottage, Pedmore Lane	50	370	30	ditto
22nd Nov.	Pearson's Cottage, Pedmore Lane	60	510	35	ditto
14th Dec.	Post Office, Pedmore ...	20	104	14	ditto

Closet Accommodation.

Most of the houses are provided with Water Closets, the exceptions being cottages situate in localities where there are no sewers. There are a number of slop W.C.'s but these are gradually being converted to W.C.'s with fresh water flushing apparatus.

Eleven slop water closets have been converted to water closets with fresh water flushing apparatus and 40 additional water closets have been provided.

The number of privies in use at the end of the year was 11.

Public Cleansing.

The Scavenging is carried out by direct labour and is dealt with by controlled tipping, being spread over small areas, covered and levelled. At the end of the year there were three tips in use, viz., Corporation Depot, Birmingham Street ; Wollaston Hall Estate ; Bromley Street, Lye.

Ashpits are emptied as required, and the contents of movable ashbins collected weekly. The few privies are cleared as required, the contents being buried. Cesspools are emptied and the contents either tipped down sewers or spread over farm land.

Three motor freighters were in use during the year. One is used for refuse collection on three days in each week, and for cleansing of street gullies at other times. All these vehicles are very satisfactory. The other conveyances are horse-drawn.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector has furnished me with the following statement as required by Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, as to the number and nature of inspections made during the year :—

Inspections of houses and premises	.....	.....	.....	358
Inspections under Housing Regulations	.....	.....	.....	62
Re-inspections under Housing Regulations	.....	.....	.....	2339
Overcrowding	.....	.....	.....	121
Visits <i>re</i> notifiable disease	.....	.....	.....	192
Visits <i>re</i> Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	23
Re-Inspections and Re-Visits	.....	.....	.....	807
Slaughter-houses	.....	.....	.....	3129
Dairies and Cowsheds	.....	.....	.....	22
Factories	.....	.....	.....	11
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	17
Food Stores	.....	.....	.....	25
Offensive trade premises	.....	.....	.....	8
Shops	.....	.....	.....	62
Vermin infestation	.....	.....	.....	44
Water Supply	.....	.....	.....	29
Petrol	.....	.....	.....	14
Vans	.....	.....	.....	9
Corporation Refuse Tips	.....	.....	.....	2
Common Lodging Houses	.....	.....	.....	2

Shops and Offices.

The systematic inspection of Shops in the Borough has been carried out during the year, information being supplied to many shop keepers as to the keeping of records and various other matters.

No action has been taken as yet with regard to the inspection of offices.

Camping Sites.

There are no licensed camping sites in the Borough, nor have any licences been issued authorising the use of movable dwellings.

By reason of two well known beauty spots being in the very near vicinity of Stourbridge no campers are found in the Borough.

Towards the end of 1938 a number of vans and tents were found to be encamped on land at rear of a works.

Various correspondence was exchanged with the owner of the land in an endeavour to secure their removal, but on the 6th January it was necessary to take legal action under the provisions of the Bye-laws relating to tents, vans, sheds and similar structures, against the owner for not providing a supply of water and sufficient privy accommodation. A fine of 40/- was imposed on each charge, with costs, but it was not until the 4th April that the caravans were finally removed.

Swimming Baths.

Mr. G. N. Maynard, the Borough Surveyor, has furnished me with the following details of the new and enlarged Corporation Baths :—

“The modernised and enlarged Swimming Baths were opened on the 19th August, 1939. At the outbreak of War on the 3rd of September, 1939, the Baths were temporarily closed, in common with other recreative establishments where large numbers of persons might be gathered together.

“A portion of the dressing accommodation was taken over by the A.R.P. Authorities for use as a Decontamination and Rescue Squad Centre.

“The Baths were subsequently re-opened on the 29th November, with dressing accommodation limited to 43 cubicles instead of the normal complement of 91. The hours of opening were revised to meet the Summer Season on the 23rd March, 1940.

“The Filtration Plant has been operating satisfactorily, and at times of very heavy loading, a clear swim water is maintained.

“Tests are made regularly to check up on the pH value of the water and the free residual chlorine content and the whole of the plant is under constant supervision.

“An all-electric laundry is installed in the old basement, which can work to a capacity of 250 towels per hour, from washing to drying, and which deals with all the towels from the public buildings in addition to the towels and costumes from the Swimming Baths.

“A new Baths Superintendent was appointed when the Baths were opened, the person appointed to the position being Mr. F. Barlow, formerly of Macclesfield. Mr. Barlow, who is an experienced engineer, has specialised in Swimming Baths work, and is responsible for the whole of the Baths Establishment.”

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary during 1939.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

One Council House and 18 other houses were found to be infested with bugs. During the year all these houses were treated, the treatment consisting of fumigation with “Lawes Disinfestators” or “Cimex Fumigators” and/or spraying with “Zaldecide.” Wherever possible door and window surrounds, skirting boarding and picture rails are removed and the flame of a blow-lamp applied. Hydrogen Cyanide was not used.

The furniture and household effects of persons moving to Council houses from houses showing any evidence of infestation are suitably treated, and in some cases furniture has been destroyed by burning. Such tenants are subsequently visited to make certain that no infestation has arisen at the new premises.

Schools.

Whilst it was not necessary to close any school during the year on account of the incidence of notifiable disease, it was found necessary to issue certificates to cover decreased attendances at three schools on account of measles—one school for four weeks, one for three weeks and the third for two weeks.

Notices are sent to schools giving particulars of scholars from houses where cases of notifiable infectious diseases have occurred, and requests made for the scholars to be excluded from school for a specified period.

The water supply generally at the schools is ample, all the schools being supplied direct from the water mains.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	358
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	403
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	62
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	69
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	45
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	94

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	51
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under sections, 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	2

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	37

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	—

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding :

(A) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	147
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	178
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	981
(B) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	48
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	358

HOUSING.

Sixty-two Houses were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 32 in Stourbridge and 30 in Lye and Wollescote. 23 Houses were reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, for demolition orders. An undertaking was accepted in respect of No. 19, High Street, to the effect that the house would not be used for human habitation until repaired to the satisfaction of the Council. An undertaking to convert two houses, Nos. 33 and 34, Bagley Street, into one through house was also accepted.

Demolition Orders.

Twenty Demolition Orders were made :—

Stourbridge :

189, 191, Enville Street ; 22, 24, Birmingham Street ; 2, Griffiths Court, 20, 22, 24, Grange Lane ; 96, South Road, ; 4, 6, Church Street.

Lye and Wollescote :

87, 88, 118, 119, High Street, Lye ; 17, 18, 19, Pedmore Road ; 37, Stourbridge Road ; 52, Crabbe Street.

145 Houses were demolished after Clearance Orders and 37 individual houses were demolished after formal action under the Housing Act, one of them an Obstructive Building under Section 54. One house was demolished in anticipation of formal action under the Act and two parts of buildings were closed.

Eleven houses were made fit after formal Notices under Sections 9 to 12, two of them by the Town Council in default of the Owner at a cost of £172 18s. 2d. An instalment of this amount was paid on demand and the Council are now collecting the rents of the houses. Fifty-one houses were rendered fit after informal action under the Housing Act, and 11 after informal action under the Public Health Acts.

Clearance Orders.

Representations were made in May in respect of 10 Clearance Areas, comprising 48 dwelling houses with an ascertained population of 167 :—

Birmingham Street (Area No. 1)	77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87.
Birmingham Street (Area No. 2)	68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78.
High Street, Lye	99, 100.
The Dock, Lye	4, 5, 6, 7.
Dudley Road, Lye	70, 71, 72, 73.
Baylie Street	3, 5.
Stourbridge Road, Lye, No. 1	55, 57, 59, 61, 63.
Stourbridge Road, Lye, No. 2	97, 109, 111.
Pedmore Road, Lye	90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96.
South Road	126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142.

The Ministry Inquiry in respect of the Orders involving these houses was suspended on account of the outbreak of war, but subsequent representations to the Minister in respect of the Stourbridge Road, Lye, No. 1 Area—5 houses and 12 occupiers—resulted in a Confirming Order being issued early in 1940.

On 24th January an Inquiry was held into the application of the Council for confirmation of 8 Clearance Orders and one Compulsory Purchase Order involving 89 dwellings and 304 occupiers. Six of the houses, occupied by 16 persons, were excluded from the Confirming Orders, namely :—

Nos. 13 and 37, Stourbridge Road, Lye.
Nos. 8, 9, 10 and 11, Union Street, Lye.

Action was commenced under the provisions of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of these six houses and at the outbreak of war a Demolition Order had been made on No. 37, Stourbridge Road.

The owner of No. 55, Wheeler Street, Stourbridge appealed to the County Court against a Demolition Order made on this house. The appeal was held at the February Court and was adjourned to a later Court to enable repairs to be carried out by a competent contractor in accordance with a plan and specification to be approved by the Public Health Committee. This work was duly carried out and the Demolition Order quashed.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 12 producers of milk in the Borough with a total of approximately 220 cows. One is licensed by the County Council to produce Accredited Milk.

The total number of retailers in the Borough is 136.

Twenty-two visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors, mostly to cowsheds. A number of dirt tests were made, all of which were satisfactory.

At one farm alterations and additions were carried out to form a new cowshed to accommodate ten cows.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

The Licences held in the Borough are as follows :—

	<i>Pasteurised.</i>	<i>Accredited.</i>	<i>Tuberculin Tested.</i>
Bottlers	—	—	—
Retailers	2	4	5
Producers	—	1	—

An application for a Licence to pasteurise was refused early in the year. The dealer concerned had recommenced pasteurisation without a licence and samples of the milk showed high bacterial counts and the presence of B. Coli, whilst the Phosphatase Test indicated that the milk had not been properly pasteurised.

Bacteriological Examinations.

The results of the examinations of samples are as follows :—

<i>Kind of Milk.</i>	<i>Count.</i>	<i>B. Coli.</i>			
		<i>1 m.l.</i>	<i>1/10th m.l.</i>	<i>1/100th m.l.</i>	<i>1/1000th m.l.</i>
Pasteurised	3,000,000	P	P	P	P
ditto	300	A	A	A	A
ditto	2,000	A	A	A	A
Ordinary	11,000	P	P	P	A
ditto	62,000	P	P	P	A
ditto	26,000	P	P	P	A
Pasteurised	43,000	P	P	P	P
Ordinary	59,000	P	P	P	P
ditto	143,000	P	P	P	P
ditto	24,400	P	P	P	A
ditto	50,900	P	P	P	P
Pasteurised	900	P	P	P	P
Ordinary	98,000	P	P	P	A

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed ...	1214	650	101	12381	4006
Number inspected ...	1178	642	100	10829	3977
All diseases, except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	—	—	—	5	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	46	34	—	7	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis ...	3.91	5.29	—	0.11	1.05
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	2	1	—	—	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	56	40	—	—	304
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	4.92	6.39	—	—	7.77

The following describes the meat which was condemned and voluntarily surrendered :—

Tuberculosis	.....	Oxen : 3 carcasses and offals ; 2 hind quarters ; 64 heads ; 63 lungs ; 36 livers ; 4 intestines ; 4 stomachs ; 10 mesenteries ; 3 hearts ; 2 spleens ; 1 udder ; 3 kidneys ; 131 lbs. beef. Pigs : 5 carcasses and offals ; 261 heads ; 91 mesenteries ; 6 lungs ; 38 fries ; 2 intestines ; 1 liver.
Distoma Hepaticum	.....	42 ox livers ; 3 ox lungs ; 5 sheep livers ; 1 sheep lung.
Abscesses	.....	12 ox livers ; 2 briskets mutton ; 2 ox head .

Pneumonia	32 pig lungs.
Echinococci	15 ox lungs ; 4 ox livers ; 1 pig liver.
Cirrhosis	7 pig livers.
Decomposition	206 lbs. beef.
Strongylosis	1 sheep lungs.
Bruising	98 lbs. beef.
Swine Erysipelas	1 pig carcase and offal.
Dropsical	1 sheep carcase and offal ; 2 legs mutton.
Mastitis	4 cows udders.
Garget	1 cow udder.
Pyæmia	1 pig carcase and offal.
Fevered Condition	3 sheep carcasses and offals ; 1 pig carcase and offal.
Moribund	1 sheep carcase and offal ; 1 pig carcase and offal.
Bacterial Necrosis	11 ox livers.
Inflammation	2 pigs frys.
Pleurisy	1 pig lungs.
Johnes Disease	1 ox intestines.

The following were also condemned and destroyed :—

14½ lbs. ham ; 3 boxes coalfish ; 50 dozen eggs ; 1 cwt. butter.

The total weight of meat condemned was 4 tons 13 cwt. 1 qr. 1 stone, as compared with 2 tons 15 cwt. 3 qrs. in 1938.

The total number of visits made to slaughterhouses during the year was 3129. In addition 25 visits were paid to food stores and numerous calls at shops.

There are 21 slaughterhouses in the Borough, one of which is occupied by three persons. One change of occupation took place during the year.

In connection with the applications of the occupiers for the granting of Licences under the provisions of Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, an inspection of each slaughterhouse was made. Notices requiring the execution of certain repairs were served upon the occupiers of 18 of the premises, no repairs were required at one slaughterhouse whilst in two instances the premises were found to be unfit for use as slaughterhouses.

Fifty Licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act were issued during the year.

There is no meat marking scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in force in the Borough.

ADULTERATION.

Food and Drugs Act.

The samples of foods and drugs submitted for analysis were as follows :

<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Analysed.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Formal.</i>	<i>Informal.</i>	
Sago	—	1	1
Cod Liver Oil	—	1	1
Glycerine	—	1	1
Pears, Tins of	—	2	2
Gravy Browning	—	1	1
Vinegar	—	1	1
Pepper	—	1	1
Baking Powder	—	1	1
Butter	1	1	2
Milk	—	10	10
Lemonade Powder.....	—	1	1
Boiled Sweets	—	3	3
Salmon and Shrimp Paste	—	1	1

No adverse report was received upon any sample submitted.

Ice Cream.

Five premises were registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream and four for the sale of ice cream.

Three samples were examined during the year, one of which was unsatisfactory.

Preserved Food.

Eight applications were received for registration of premises used for the manufacture of Preserved Food, all of which were duly registered after inspection.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

As and when required samples are submitted to the County Laboratory at Worcester.

Nutrition.

Nutrition on the whole is fairly good, and no bad cases of under-nutrition have come to my notice during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Small Pox.

No case was reported during the year. No cases have occurred in the Borough since 1931.

Scarlet Fever.

The type of disease was again of a mild nature. 92 cases, or 2.65 per thousand of the population, were reported during the year, as compared with 25 in the previous year and 29 in 1937.

Generally speaking the cases were of a sporadic nature, with an increased incidence in July, in which month alone 23 cases were reported.

The cases occurred in 83 households—on seven occasions two cases occurred in one house and on one occasion three. 39 patients resided in Council Houses.

Removal to hospital took place in 76 instances.

Diphtheria.

Forty cases of Diphtheria, equivalent to an incidence of 1.14 per thousand population, were notified during the year as compared with 49 in the previous year and 81 in 1937. In addition 14 non-clinical cases—"carriers"—were admitted to Isolation Hospital.

An outbreak of the disease, mainly Gravis in type, occurred in October and November, and may possibly have been due to the return to the Borough of some 60 contacts from the hop-fields.

All these contacts were swabbed shortly after return, and three were found to be "carriers."

There were seven deaths, giving a case mortality of 17.5 per cent. The case mortality for 1938 was 4.08; for 1937, 3.70; and for 1936, 15.5.

One of the deaths was a male, aged 74, living outside the Borough at the date of onset. The others were children of school or pre-school age. On three occasions death occurred within a week of admission, one three weeks, one seven weeks and one eight weeks after admission. None of the patients who died had been immunised.

All the patients were admitted to the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital. Domiciliary treatment for this disease is not encouraged.

Of the non-clinical cases removed during the year six were members of one family, a further member of which was suffering from clinical diphtheria. Five others also were connected with clinical cases.

In five instances two cases occurred in one house, the subsequent case being reported on each occasion within a day or so of the primary notification.

In the case of a few of the patients the source of infection could be ascertained, but for the greater part no obvious connection between the cases could be discovered.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The total number of children who have now been immunised is as follows :—

Year	Alum Precipitated Toxoid.		Toxoid-Antitoxin Mixture	Total
	1 Inj.	2 Inj.		
1935	1,813	—	3	1,816
1936	972	—	—	972
1937	224	247	46	517
1938	—	201	23	224
1939	—	61	35	96
Totals	3,009	509	107	3,625

Forty-seven of the children immunised during the year were of pre-school age. Special efforts are being directed to bring the advantages of immunisation to the notice of parents of such children.

Of the 40 cases of Diphtheria reported during the year 11 had previously been immunised. In each instance a single injection of Alum Precipitated Toxoid had been given from two to four years previously. Each of the children made an early and complete recovery.

Table Showing Incidence and Severity of Diphtheria.

Year	Total		Mortality		Immunised Children.	
	Cases	Deaths	Rate		Cases	Deaths
1935	110	18	16.3		3	—
1936	33	5	15.1		3	—
1937	81	3	3.7		6	—
1938	49	2	4.08		6	—
1939	40	7	17.5		11	—
	<hr/> 313	<hr/> 35			<hr/> 29	<hr/> —

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were reported during the year. All occurred at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home, four of them being non-residents of the Borough.

One of the patients was transferred to hospital for treatment. All made good recoveries.

Notification is satisfactory. Facilities for all necessary treatment are provided by the County Council.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported during the year, one of them at the Mary Stevens Maternity Home.

Pneumonia.

Fifteen cases were notified during 1939, as compared with 52 in the previous year. 18 deaths occurred.

Erysipelas.

Ten cases were reported, as compared with 22 in 1938. One patient was notified on two separate occasions. No deaths occurred. Streptococcal infections are common but as a rule respond well to early and adequate treatment with the Sulphonamide group of drugs.

Acute Rheumatism.

Cases of this disease are still occurring especially in the east side of the Borough where the subsoil is of clay. Some have cardiac complications and others chorea.

During the year progress was made in connection with a site for a special school for rheumatic children. Unfortunately, the outbreak of hostilities suspended this very necessary scheme.

Typhoid Fever.

A resident, a child aged 3, attending a Birmingham Hospital, was reported to be suffering from Typhoid Fever. The child had been unwell for over two years. The source of the infection could not be ascertained and investigations on the three contacts proved negative.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

By virtue of provisional regulations dated 23rd October, 1939, made by the Minister of Health, Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable forthwith.

Two cases of Whooping Cough were notified in November and one of Whooping Cough and one of Measles in December.

All made good recoveries.

Food Poisoning.

Following the commencement of the Food and Drugs Act on 1st October, Food Poisoning became notifiable.

Two cases from one house were reported at the end of October. Both were mild cases, due, apparently, to tinned salmon. A third case was notified in December, which investigations showed to be due to pork stuffing.

General.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases has been similar to that in 1938 ; the total, 169, being the same.

Diphtheria is the disease which has caused the most concern, as some of the cases are very severe. Early use of anti-toxin is urged even in doubtful cases, and is provided free to Medical Practitioners by the Borough Council. Doubtful throats and nasal passages are swabbed as a routine. Contacts in the house are all swabbed and contacts at school are also swabbed if there are more than three cases in a class. Specimens are examined by the County Bacteriologist. Immunisation against Diphtheria has been practised as in previous years.

Anti-scarlatinal serum is not provided free, but it is used in severe cases. In the Isolation Hospital it is used in most cases ; undoubtedly it is useful in preventing or alleviating complications and in shortening the period in hospital. Sulphonamide is now being used in many Streptococcol conditions and appears to be replacing anti-scarlatinal serum. It is very efficacious.

Cases of Streptococcol Tonsillitis have been frequent and undoubtedly mild cases spread the infection, causing Scarlet Fever in one patient and perhaps Puerperal Fever in another.

Sputum from many suspected chest cases is examined for Tubercle Bacilli.

Every endeavour is made to have each case of Diphtheria removed to hospital. The removal of Scarlet Fever cases depends on whether efficient isolation and proper nursing can be carried out at home ; in many cases it is difficult—the patients are then removed.

Fumigation of rooms which have been occupied by patients suffering from infectious disease is carried out upon request, and where the patient has been treated at home. Bed clothing is always disinfected.

The notification of pneumonia is not in all respects satisfactory ; although it is clear which types of the disease should be reported, it is not always easy to diagnose them clinically and I believe that some cases are reported which need not be, and vice versa, cases which should be reported, sometimes are not. Further, it is difficult to know how to utilise the information when it is received, beyond seeing that adequate nursing provision is made. The services of the local Nursing Association are used in some of these cases and are much appreciated.

No official action has been taken in the use of Serum in the prophylaxis or treatment of Measles. I am aware of a small number of cases which have been treated with Immune Globulin (Placental Extract) ; the children were given the treatment on account of debility from some other condition—Coeliac disease in one case—the cases were definitely attenuated and no complications occurred.

Measles and whooping cough cases are not at present admitted to the Isolation Hospital ; it was hoped that when the intended enlargement of the Isolation Hospital took place severe cases might be admitted, but this work has been temporarily suspended on account of the outbreak of war.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The following tables give details of the Notification of Infectious Diseases during the year.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	7	9	8	10	6	23	6	4	2	7	5	92
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	16	5	11	40
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	6
Pneumonia	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	15
Erysipelas	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	1	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS	9	12	11	12	12	11	25	10	10	21	16	20	169

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS,) DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease.	Ages.												Total No. of Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years.	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 and upwards.			
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	4	3	7	8	43	20	4	1	1	1	—	92	76	—
Diphtheria	—	—	3	1	4	17	12	2	1	—	—	—	40	40	7
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	5	5	1	15	—	18
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	1	4	—	10	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	3	4	7	10	13	62	32	7	13	7	10	1	169	116	25

Table Showing Incidence of Infectious Diseases in Different Parts of the Borough.

Disease.	Stourbridge.	Lye and Wollescote.	Pedmore
Scarlet Fever	52	35	5
Diphtheria	38	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	—
Pneumonia	6	9	—
Erysipelas	2	8	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	—
Measles	1	—	—
Totals ...	109	55	5

Cancer.

There were 64 deaths from Cancer, 29 females and 35 males, as compared with 48 in 1938.

In the males the primary growth occurred in the alimentary canal in 21 instances, the youngest person being 45 years of age and the oldest 81 years. In the female the primary growth was in the alimentary canal in 7 cases—youngest 54, oldest 79 years of age.

There did not appear to be any relation between the organs affected and the occupation.

Men engaged in the production of Tar at the Corporation Gas Works are examined quarterly for the occurrence of warts or suspicious evidence of Tar Cancer.

Treatment by radium and deep X-rays is provided for suitable cases at some of the Birmingham Hospitals. More use is being made of these methods of treatment.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken by the Council under Section 176 of the 1936 Act.

There is a Voluntary Blind Institution in the Borough providing work for afflicted persons, but there is no Institution for treatment.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	3	6	—	—	—	3	—	—
25	...	...	5	2	—	—	1	1	—	2
35	...	...	4	2	—	—	4	2	—	—
45	...	...	1	2	1	—	4	1	—	—
55	...	...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	...	...	16	16	5	—	10	9	—	2

The Death Rate for Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.54 per 1,000 of population as compared with 0.63 in the previous year, while the Death Rate for Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was 0.057 as compared with 0.058 in 1938.

There were two non-notified Tuberculosis deaths, or 9.52% of the total deaths from the disease. Notification of Tuberculosis in the Borough is efficient and there was no occasion for the taking of any proceedings or action for refusal or failure to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation or area in the Borough.

SUMMARY OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT END OF 1939.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females
No. of cases on Register, 1st January, 1939 ...	62	56	16	24
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year under the Regulations ...	16	13	5	—
No. of cases first heard of otherwise than by primary notification ...	—	3	—	—
No. of cases removed from Register in a previous Quarter which have been restored to Register during the Quarter ...	—	3	—	—
TOTALS ...	78	75	21	24
No. of cases removed from Register during the year ...	20	16	2	4
No. of cases remaining on Register at the end of the year ...	58	59	19	20

Tuberculosis After-Care Committee.

The Stourbridge Tuberculosis After-Care Committee, formed at the end of 1937, has met regularly during the year and has done excellent work.

The object of an After-Care Committee is the supervision of patients after their discharge from Sanatoria, the duties including the consideration of applications for food allowances and for services of nurses, the supply of shelters, bedsteads and bedclothing, and the re-housing of Tuberculosis patients.

Two families were re-housed by the Housing Committee following requests from the After-Care Committee for favourable consideration.

Other cases submitted for consideration had not been re-housed at the end of the year.

Several recommendations for grants for food allowances were forwarded to the County Medical Officer.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CARRICK G. PAYTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

